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That Mr. Gummere is filled with enthusiasm for his task is evident throughout. The style is clear and spirited. One feels inclined, however, to question the appropriateness of such expressions as "bleacherite," "hand-me-downs," and "purple patcher." The Senecan quotations on page 107 are found (among others) in Montaigne's "Essai de l'Institution des Enfants" and not in his "Essai des Livres." From *Ep.* 106 the French moralist quotes in "Essais," I, 24; III, 12. To the brief bibliography, which along with three pages of notes and a list of forthcoming volumes brings the book to a close, might be added Francis Holland's *Seneca*, London, 1920.

Mr. Gummere is to be congratulated on the success with which he has accomplished his purpose; for this slender volume will bring home to the general reader the vital appeal made by Seneca's philosophical writings as they have come down the ages to the modern world with a message of universal brotherhood and steadying courage. "Dans les incertitudes et les fluctuations de la vie, il est bon d'avoir l'œil toujours fixé sur les hauts principes d'une doctrine vers laquelle on tourne toutes ses actions et ses paroles, comme font les navigateurs qui se règlent sur certaines étoiles."

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Vitae patrum. Kritische Untersuchungen über Text, Syntax und Wortschatz der spätlateinischen Vitae patrum (Bände III, V, VI, VII). Von DR. A. H. SALONIUS. (*Acta societatis humaniorum litterarum Lundensis.* II). Lund, 1920.

This study of the syntax and lexicography of a series of late Latin texts was inspired by Löfstedt's *Commentary on the Perigrinatio Aetherae* and has been carried out along the same lines. It is an extremely important contribution to our knowledge of sixth-century syntax and of late Latin in general.

The author outlines the scope of his study in the first chapter of the *Einleitung*. The texts chosen are Books III, V, VI, VII, of the so-called *Vitae patrum*, though, as the author has pointed out, *Verba seniorum* would seem to be a better title. At first glance it would appear to be a doubtful venture to study a text that has no better manuscript foundation than Migne's reprint of Rosweyde's edition, but the attempt has been surprisingly successful. The author has not attempted to present an exhaustive study—a modern edition would be indispensable for that. He has chosen four books by four different authors (Ps. Rufinus, Pelagius, Ioannes and Paschasius), which contain, however, a considerable number of passages that represent different versions of the same original. This original is Greek (except perhaps

in the case of Book III); the Greek text appears to have been lost, though further search may bring it to light. Salonius discovered a lengthy Greek excerpt in Migne's Greek *Patrologia* after his work was in type.

The author does not confine himself to stating the peculiarities of the different books and their points in common, but makes constant comparison with the syntax and vocabulary of other texts from Plautus to late Latin writers, both ecclesiastical and profane. The first chapter closes with some sound observations on the question of Greek influence on late Latin syntax, on the literary element in our so-called Vulgar Latin texts, which varies with the education of the writer, and on the influence of the mother-tongue on the language of a writer who learned his Latin as a foreign language.

The second chapter of the *Einleitung* is devoted to a discussion of the authorship of the third book. Rosweyd had attributed it to Rufinus, partly on stylistic grounds. Salonius points out striking differences between this text and the writings of Rufinus, e.g., in the use of comparatives and superlatives, of pronouns, of tenses, and of moods. The material collected is not exhaustive but is more than enough to prove that Rufinus could not have written Book III. Then follows a statement of the contents and sources of the four books.

In the third chapter the author discusses various errors in the text of Migne and suggests emendations, with the help sometimes of parallel passages in the Latin or Greek versions. Several series of passages are printed in parallel columns which enable one to compare the texts of the four versions and see their mutual relationships. The fourth chapter gives a list of parallel passages.

The syntactical part contains a discussion of selected topics. The method is both descriptive and comparative, but scattered throughout the book are many clever suggestions as to the origin and development of the constructions under discussion. Some of the suggestions seem to have been made without any particular reflection, and are indeed nothing more than guesses, e.g., Salonius correctly objects to explaining the plural *carnes* as due to Greek influence, and sees in it a real plural; he overlooks the etymological support for his interpretation, *carnifex*; Umbrian *karu*, "pars," *karnus*, "partibus."

In the use of the collective singular, in addition to a popular and a poetical usage (also found in prose with a poetical coloring), he recognizes a technical usage different in feeling from the others. In discussing the development of the use of the abstract plurals and the singular in a concrete sense he raises the question as to the priority of the former usage.

The case constructions in which Salonius is especially interested are the genitive (descriptive, partitive, with its rival ablative with *de* or *ex*, and the "chorographic" genitive) and the ablative (of instrument, of comparison, and of duration). Only a few of the points brought out can be mentioned

here. There is a difference between the *in*- and the *de*-ablative expressing means, and a difference between these two and the pure instrumental. The influence of the Greek in the development of the prepositional constructions is evident. The ablative with *vehī*, *se lenere*, etc., is locative; the author is not troubled by the absence of the preposition *in*. The ablative of comparison is not entirely of separative origin; the instrumental also played a part; cf. *Pl. Curc.* 141, *qui me aequē fortunatus erit*. In expressions of equality the ablative was driven out by the genitive and dative; with adjectives in the comparative degree the separative ablative drove out the instrumental. The ablative with *dignus*, *decorus*, *par*, *idoneus*, is instrumental. These views are set forth at great length and supported by many examples. Saloniū seems to incline to the view of Delbrück and Brugmann that the ablative of duration of time is an inherited usage of the instrumental and not a Latin development. For classical Latin he would represent the accusative of duration graphically by a straight line, the ablative by a dotted line (representing habitual or repeated acts). The fewer the dots the closer the ablative approaches the accusative construction. The author traces the gradual encroachment of the ablative and its final victory in late Latin.

The discussion of the cases closes with a chapter on the use of the accusative and prepositional phrases with words of asking and inquiring, illustrated with numerous examples.

Other chapters deal with the adjective, adverb and preposition, pronoun, verb, and the particles. The treatment of the use of clauses with *quod*, *quia*, etc., instead of the infinitive and accusative is good. Though the figures given for the use of the indicative and subjunctive with the various introductory particles may reflect the actual facts in the *Vilae*, in an antiquated text like Migne's their accuracy cannot be trusted; one cannot be sure of the verb forms, and even modern editors, like the scribes themselves, are not absolutely trustworthy in transcribing the abbreviations for *quod* and *quia*, and *quando* and *quoniam*. Mayen's dissertation on this subject has been out of date for a long time and there is a fine opportunity for a Doctor's dissertation that will go into the heart of things. Much of the material has been treated in a purely mechanical way, and all the evidence from the classical authors has not been collected. This is partly due to the common assumption that these constructions are Greek; but the seeds of this usage were in the Latin language from the beginning, though its rapid development in later Latin was undoubtedly due to translations from the Greek.

The lexicographical part deals with late Latin words, or words that have taken on new meanings. The words are arranged alphabetically, and their usage is illustrated by a wide range of examples.

Three indexes (*Sachindex*, *Wortindex*, *Stellenindex*) close the volume.

CHARLES H. BEESON